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REMARKS

Claims 5-12 and 15-33 are pending in the application. Claims 5-7, 9, 11, 12, 15-33 stand rejected by the Examiner. Claims 8 and 10 are objected to by the Examiner. The drawings have not been acknowledged. The Examiner's objections and rejections are addressed below in substantially the same order as in the office action.

Claim Objections

Claim 30 stands objected to because of no antecedent basis for "said Plug." Applicant has corrected the claim dependency of claim 30 to provide the necessary antecedent basis.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

Claims 5-7, 15-19, 22-27, and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thomason et al. (USP4,201,265). Claims 9, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Thomason et al. Claims 20, 21, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomason.

Claims 8 and 10 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 8 recites a filler material that comprises surface discontinuities formed to induce fluid flow turbulence, wherein the surface discontinuities comprise transverse jet channels. Claim 10 recites filler material comprises a plurality of independent increments wherein each of the independent increments of filler material is separated from adjacent increments.

There are presently four independent claims: claims 5, 10, 18 and 27. Claims 5 and 18 have been amended to recite the recitation of claim 8. Claims 10 and 27 have been amended to recite the recitation of claim 10. Thus, Applicant believes that all the independent claims, and all claims depending therefrom, recite allowable subject matter and are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. No fee is believed due for this paper. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0429(274-30699-US)

Respectfully submitted,

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